

In the Drawings:

Figures 1-6 have been amended to include connection dots at circuit intersection points.

Remarks

The non-final Office Action dated September 28, 2007 lists the following objections and rejections: the drawings and disclosure stand objected to; claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112(2); claims 1-2 and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Shin (U.S. Patent Pub. 2005/0073488); and claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Shin.

Applicant appreciates Examiner Nguyen's time in discussing the Office Action over the telephone. Based upon this discussion, Applicant believes that the following remarks and amendments to the drawings should address the objections.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, Applicant submits that the drawings, as-filed, together with the supporting description are both clear (as relevant to one of skill in the art) and meet any requirements for what is to be shown therein under relevant law and/or the M.P.E.P. Notwithstanding this, Applicant has amended the drawings to include connection dots per the Examiner's request.

Applicant respectfully traverses the objection to the specification because the rationale behind the objection is misplaced. Specifically, the objection indicates that an example embodiment describing more than one main cell and more than one sense cell is not shown in the figures. However, the figures show example circuits that may be applicable to the described example embodiments, with one or more individual circuit elements repeated to make larger circuits. That is, as is consistent with relevant law and the M.P.E.P., when an item such as a circuit or a device is repeated, a figure showing a single item that can be repeated can be sufficient to exemplify embodiments having more than one such circuit or device. In this instance, the drawings clearly show a main cell and a sense cell that are readily repeated for large circuit applications. For instance, referring to FIG. 1 and the corresponding discussion at paragraphs 43-54, the circuit shown by a dashed line around main cell 2 and sense cell 4 can be repeated and similarly connected, such that each repeated circuit includes a main cell and sense cell as shown. Applicant submits that such variations in what is shown in the figures and as consistent with the detailed description is clear and would be readily understood by one of skill in the art. In this regard, Applicant requests that the objection to the specification be removed.

The Section 112(2) rejection of the claims is related to the above-discussed objection to the specification in that it is based upon a showing of example main cells (plural) and sense cells (plural). For the reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that the claimed invention is clearly described and/or shown in the drawings in a manner that is consistent with Section 112(2), and requests that the rejection be removed.

Applicant submits that the Section 102(e) and 103(a) rejections are improper because both rejections rely upon the Shin reference, which is not prior art. Specifically, the instant application is an application under 35 U.S.C. §371, having priority in PCT Patent Application No. PCT/IB2004/01156, which has an international filing date of April 8, 2004 and a priority date of April 16, 2003 (Great Britain application GB0308758.2). The cited Shin reference was filed in the U.S. on September 29, 2004 and claims priority to Korean application KR2003-0069646, dated October 7, 2003. In this regard, the Shin reference is not prior art under Section 102(e) or 103(a). Applicant therefore requests that the rejections be removed.

In view of the remarks above, Applicant believes that each of the rejections has been overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the agent overseeing the application file, Peter Zawilski, of NXP Corporation at (408) 474-9063 (or the undersigned).

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